

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

**Statewide “Earthquake: Duck, Cover, & Hold” Drill,
Government and Emergency Prep Week
Kick Off 18th Annual Earthquake Preparedness Month**

On Tuesday morning at 10:30, more than 2 million Californians in homes, schools, and workplaces will dive under desks and cover themselves against walls while practicing what to do during an earthquake as part of the statewide “Earthquake: Duck, Cover and Hold” Drill.

The drill, sponsored by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), formally kicks off the 18th annual California Earthquake Preparedness Month campaign. The drill will consist of more than 50 radio and television stations statewide broadcasting Governor Gray Davis' recorded “Earthquake: Duck, Cover and Hold” Drill Emergency Alert System message while their listeners practice the basic earthquake safety action.

“Despite the devastating earthquakes this state has experienced in the last decade, many Californians have been short-sighted in getting ready for the next one,” said OES Director Dallas Jones. “Preparedness isn't as high on many people's list of priorities as it should be. Each of us can significantly reduce our risk of death and injury by knowing what to do and what not to do when an earthquake strikes. Governor Davis' Earthquake—Duck, Cover and Hold Drill on Tuesday April 3 is a good opportunity to practice protecting ourselves from our most-likely hazard.”

“Recent images of fallen concrete and other debris outside buildings in Seattle illustrate why we strongly recommend that Californians take cover under a sturdy desk or table, rather than run outside,” Jones explained. “Even though some buildings may collapse and several may suffer significant damage in a large earthquake, the majority will remain standing. You're at greater risk to falling debris outside and falling bookcases, lighting fixtures and other objects inside than from a building collapse.”

Recent California Quake Activity

Between March 21 (0923) and March 28 (0923 hrs.), California experienced 174 earthquakes. Of those, eight were greater than magnitude 3.0. View a map of recent quakes at <http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/recenteqs/latest.htm>

3.0 03/27 (8 mi) NNW of Petrolia	3.4 03/23 (1 mi) ENE of The Geysers
3.7 03/27 (15 mi) WNW of Truckee	3.4 03/23 (9 mi) SE of Petrolia
3.3 03/24 (4 mi) ESE of Ontario	3.2 03/23 (9 mi) N of Morgan Hill
3.0 03/24 (8 mi) NW of Ludlow	3.0 03/21 (26 mi) WNW of Punta Gorda

If you're inside and unable to get under a desk or table, OES and other safety agencies recommend that you take cover against an interior wall, away from objects that could fall, and cover your head and neck with your arms. If you are driving, pull over to the side of the road and stop in an area away from bridges, signs and power. Recommended safety actions for other locations are available on the OES *"Ready to Ride it Out"* Web site at www.oes.ca.gov.

Although no damaging earthquakes occurred in California during the week of March 20-27, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) recorded eight temblors above magnitude 3 and nearly 200 temblors above magnitude one throughout the state.

"The Napa earthquake last September, the Nisqually earthquake in Washington on February 28 and the recent magnitude 6.5 earthquake near Hiroshima, Japan, are reminders that damaging earthquakes occur without warning and, sometimes, in places where we least expect them."

Tuesday's drill is the first of dozens of events scheduled throughout April as part of California Earthquake Preparedness Month Campaign. OES coordinates the campaign with the support of local government, educational institutions, small businesses and large corporations, as well as community-based organizations.

"Earthquakes and other emergencies can often challenge even the most-prepared community and its emergency response organization," said Jones. "It is at these times that long-term planning efforts pay dividends. I urge government agencies, particularly those charged with emergency planning and response, to use this week and Earthquake Preparedness Month as an opportunity to review and test their plans, as well as to encourage employees to increase their personal readiness."

Government and emergency services preparedness is the focus of this week's activities. The following events and drills are scheduled to take place throughout the state:

- Earthquake drill, **OES Headquarters in Sacramento**, April 3
- Earthquake drill, **Crocker/Riverside Elementary in Sacramento**, April 3
- Campus-wide evacuation drill, **CSU Fullerton**, April 3
- Emergency preparedness fair and earthquake drill, **Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank**, April 3
- Earthquake preparedness expo, **San Mateo Community Center**, April 3
- Earthquake drill, all **City of Albany** departments, April 3
- Earthquake drill, all **City of Baldwin Park** facilities, April 3
- Earthquake drill, multiple **City of Santa Clarita** facilities, April 3
- Earthquake drill, **Kaiser Foundation Health in Oakland**, April 3
- Earthquake drill, **St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Milpitas**, April 3
- Earthquake drill, all **San Bernardino City USD Schools**, April 3
- Earthquake drill, all **San Francisco USD Schools**, April 3
- City-wide sirens will sound, **San Francisco**, April 3
- Earthquake drill, **1, 2, 3, 4 Embarcadero Center, Embarcadero Center West in San Francisco**, April 3
- Emergency preparedness fair, **Los Angeles County Civic Center area**, Thursday April 5;
- Neighborhood drill, **San Francisco's Chinatown** area, April 6.
- **San Francisco Bay Area** Neighborhood Emergency Teams response exercises, April 7

- **City of Huntington Beach's** Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) campaign kickoff event, April 7
- Earthquake awareness fair, **Campbell's** First United Methodist Church, April 7
- Emergency awareness fair, **Camarillo** Town Center, April 7.

Additional earthquake preparedness information, as well as details about the Earthquake—Duck, Cover and Hold Drill and California Earthquake Preparedness Month Campaign events are available at the OES "Ready to Ride it Out" Web site at **www.oes.ca.gov**.

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